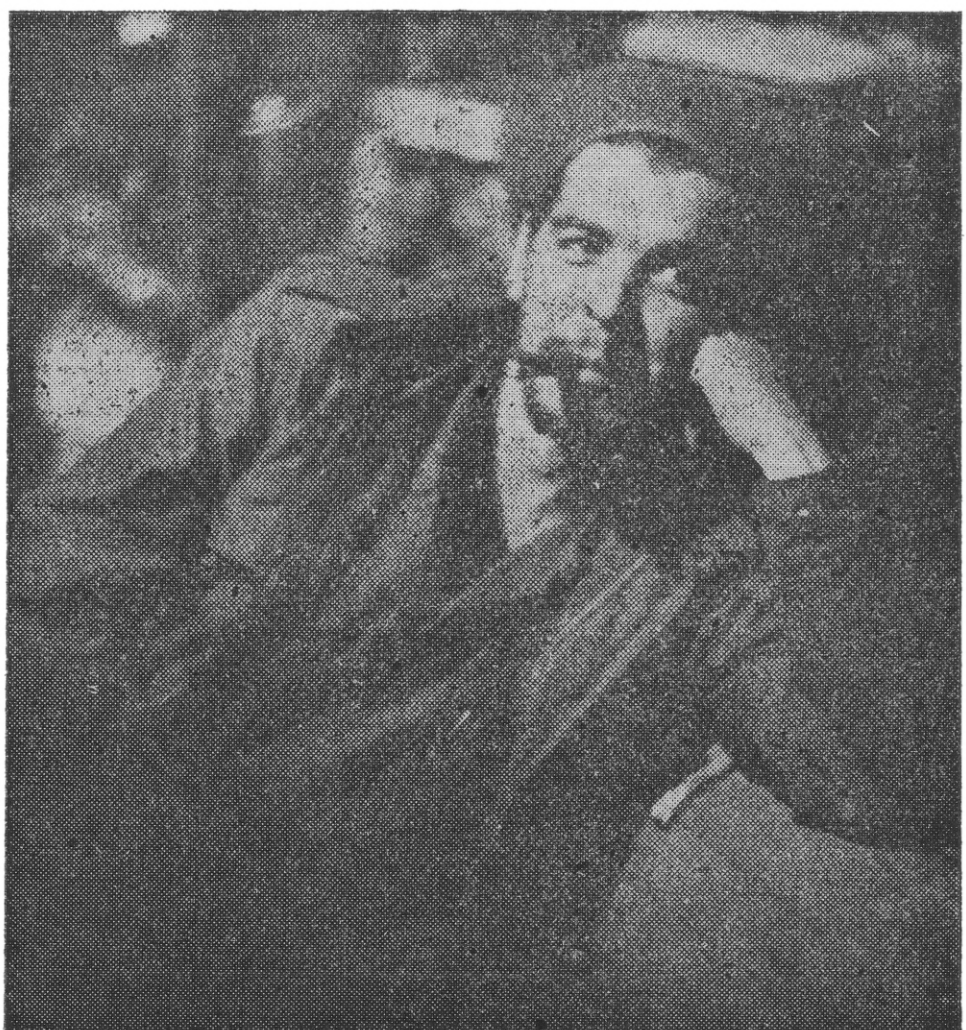
DECLARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE OSPAAAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF COMANDANTE ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA.



On April 16, 1967 the whole world was stirred by the historical message of Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara, addressed to all peoples through the Tricontinental Organization. From the battle-front he replied, with his combative presence, to the campaigns of the reactionary press, who used the fact of his intentional disappearance to try to slander the Cuban Revolution.

Six months have elapsed, and the death of the heroic "comandante" at the head of the Bolivian National Liberation Army once more stirs the world to its depths. We, as revolutionaries, pay heartfelt homage to the martyr of the liberation of the exploited and oppressed masses.

Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara foresaw the proper road which the underdeveloped peoples should follow at the present time. His thought appears in manuscripts, speeches, interventions, international events and in every rostrum where his voice could be raised to condemn the state of poverty, oppression and explcitation to which these peoples have been submitted by imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism.

His preoccupation for the destiny of Africa and Asia made him study, travel, consult and exchange points of view with the foremost revolutionaries of the Afro-Asian movement.

Thus, in February 1965, in the city of Algiers, he met with El Mehdi Ben Barka, discussing with him the necessity of increasing the Afro-Asian solidarity, enlarging it to comprise also the peoples of Latin America, as well as the importance of holding the First Conference of Solidarity o f the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which was held a few months later in the city of Havana.

Che divulged his unbreakable faith in the guerrilla armed struggle, in the need of combating the oppression of the dominant classes by means of organizing popular armies which would be capable of defeating the enemy in the different fronts, and in this manner bringing to a stalemate the whole imperialist apparatus, and hastening its destruction. His thoughts and actions were dedicated to revolutionary tasks, and to divulge the necessity of acting against imperialism, as he was convinced that each people, each man, each revolutionary should supply the quota of sacrifice demanded by national liberation.

His integral perception of the anti-imperialist struggle and his firm revolutionary attitude led him to new battlefields. His internationalist spirit would have made it possible for him to shed his blood in any battlefront, whether in Africa, in Asia or in Latin America. His struggle was directed against the great enemy of humanity, U.S. imperialism, who is the ring eader of the forces who oppress the peoples, pillaging thir wealth and making their very existence one of frightful misery. He believed in the universality of revolutionary thought, and fought for the creation of truly internationalist armies.

He spoke encomiastically of the heroic example of Viet Nam, mentioning it as the maximum expression of the anti-imperialist struggle, pointing out that the aggressions against Laos and Cambodia, the occupation of part of the Korean territory and Japan's aggressiveness have turned this part of the world into a veritable volcano, which may erupt at any time provoking a conflict of world-wide dimensions, as may also occur in the Middle East, the development of which crisis, Che Guevara vaticinated in his message.

He condemned the racialist minority regimes of Africa, which brutally oppress their peoples; called attention to the existence of neo-colonialism as a part of the imperialist policy in this continent and likewise condemned the maintenance of the colonial systems, remarking that the situation which had developed in the Congo as a result of Patrice Lumumba's murder, is a clarion call to battle for the conquest of final independence.

He dedicated preferent attention to the peoples of Latin America, where the subservience of the puppet governments to North American interests has converted these so-called republics into veritable colonies totally surrendered to economic, ideological, cultural and military penetration, which circumstances totally curb any possibility of development; and he called relentlessly for simultaneous revolutionary struggle on a continental scale, in order to oppose the brutal domination of imperialism and smash its sustenance base in each of these countries.

The oligarchic and pro-imperialist government of Bolivia has announced his death. Mercenary soldiers, prepared, trained and advised by Yankee agents, extinguished with Yankee weapons the life of the heroic "comandante." Seriously wounded, he was finally killed by a bullet in his heart and his remains carefully hidden, later announcing the cremation of the body, as though by doing away with his ashes they could erase his immortal example, and not make it even more glorious. Guided by this same purpose, the murderers of

Patrice Lumumba and Ben Barka eliminated their bodies, burning their remains in the smelting furnaces of Katanga and in a Paris furnace, respectively.

The Bolivian oligarchic military dictatorship, enjoying the technical and military resources of Yankee imperialism, succeeded, by a stroke of luck, in physically eliminating Comandante Ernesto (Che) Guevara. The embryo of the army organized by Che, will increase its strength, demand responsibility for this crime and avenge his death. The workers, the peasants and the entire population will continue to develop the guerrilla warfare and Bolivia shall be free.

The green berets, the rangers and the Yankee assessors will bite the dust of defeat and triumph will crown the sacrifices made by the peoples, who are ready to conquer victory at the cost of their blood and heroism.

U.S. imperialism and its puppets, with their barbarous methods of oppressing the people, drive them into the revolutionary struggle. The people find themselves inevitably obliged to fight, to strike and to harass them unceasingly, without truce, forcing them to disperse and to fight in an unfavorable ground. The guerrillas will multiply and will develop and the armies of fighters will increase their experience day by day; they will grow stronger and will be more implacable with the imperialist beast. Hatred will become more intense and the struggle will evolve into a life or death battle.

All fronts must be uninterruptedly attacked, striking imperialism, as Che urged all peoples to do, in a world confrontation with all peoples, fearless of war, attacking and destroying their sustenance bases by the struggle for national liberation and by developing a real internationalist solidarity.

Armed struggle is the road that the peoples will follow to liberate themselves from the rapacious exploitation of imperialism, which has created the international of crime and has blackmailed humanity with the menace of a worldwide conflagration. It uses its obsolete and archaic international instruments, such as the OAS and discredited or innocuous organizations such as the UNO and the OAU, in an attempt to achieve its objectives of domination and expansion, arrogating the right to perpetrate aggression, intervene, invade and commit murder whenever it deems it convenient. Imperialism exercizes its hegemony at the point of its bayonets, with its tanks and its air and naval force, with its napalm and bacteriological bombs. Its oppression and savagery will increasingly unite all peoples day by day; we must not conceive any illusions on the basis of mere words-imperialism attacks and the reply must be none other than the unyielding fight to death, that will oblige it to struggle and to disperse its forces in a continuous, multiform confrontation. The only possibility of attaining victory is to further the struggle by creating two, three, many Viet Nams.

Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara, by his example, enhances the cause of revolution and emboldens revolutionary peoples to carry on the fight. His heroism, devotedness, firmness and sacrifice will encourage others to raise up their arms and continue the liberating struggle.

As Major Fidel Castro said in the solemn wake held in Havana: "we will always seek inspiration in Che's example, inspiration in the struggle, inspiration in tenacity, inspiration in the uncompromising stand against the enemy and inspiration in internationalist sentiments."

The magnitude of his action goes far beyond the country to which he sacrificed his life, it projects beyond the limits of Latin America and extends itself to all oppressed peoples in the world. Due to his revolutionary probity, his ideology in the struggle against imperialism and his attitude as a consequent fighter, he has become an example and a guide to the cause of world revolution.

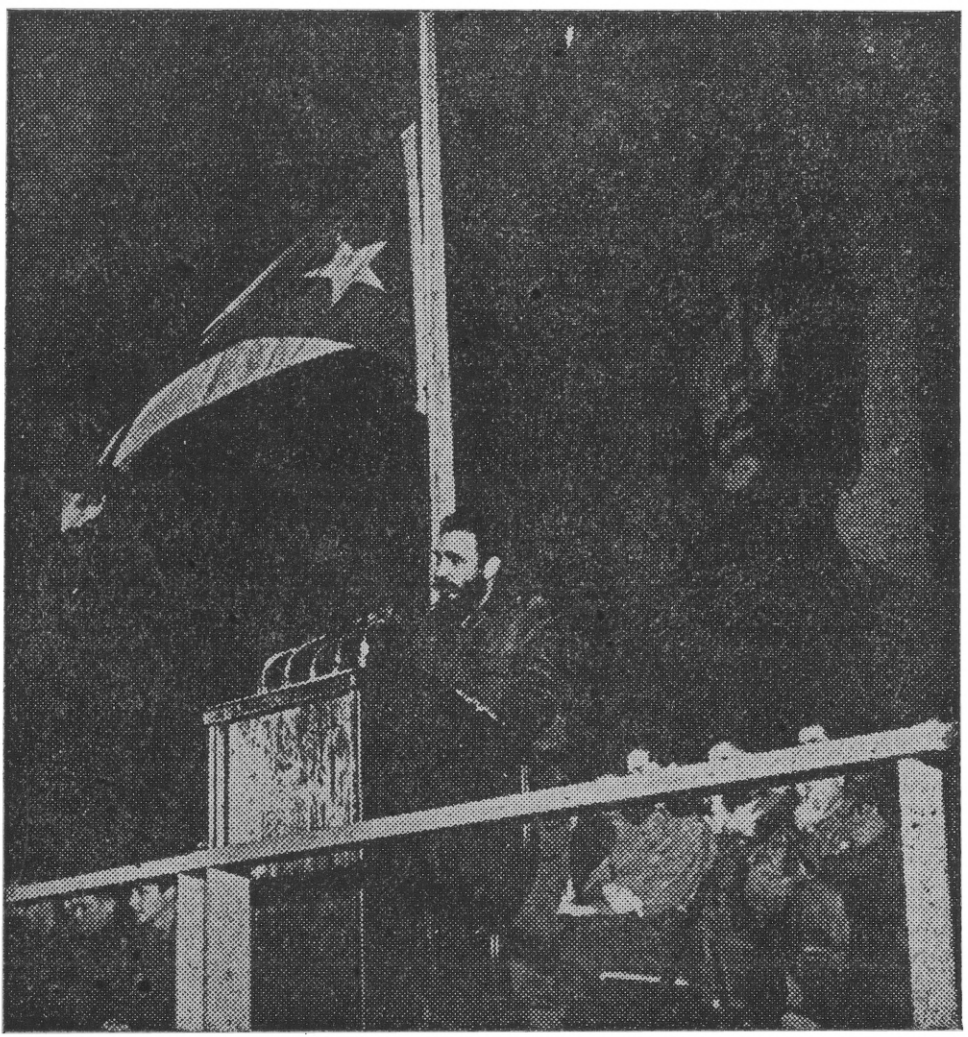
The Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America has agreed to establish the 8th. of October, date of his death, as the Tricontinental Day of the Heroic Guerrilla Fighter. The divulgation of his work, his thought and his action will serve all revolutionaries in every corner of the world, in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Victory and a bright future will flourish during the direct confrontation with imperialism; the hands ready to take up their weapons in victorious combats will multiply themselves, new battle-fronts will be established and the peoples' determination against oppression and poverty will become firmer. Two, three, many Viet Nams will emerge and the redention of all peoples will be achieved earlier.

The irreparable loss of heroic and glorious Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara for the revolutionary movement, compels all revolutionary fighters throughout the world and all people to redouble their actions and their struggle against imperialist oppression.

The Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAL calls on all peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and of the whole world to pay homage to Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara and to the fighters who fell by his side, by intoning funereal dirges with the staccato singing of the machineguns and new battle cries of war and victory.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE OSPAAAL

Havana, October 28, 1967.

"THIS GREAT HUMANITY HAS SAID: ENOUGH! AND HAS STARTED TO MOVE FORWARD."